12/26/70

Dear Jim (and Jenifer),

Twas the night of Christmas, and all through the house, one creature was stirred - the old boy couldn't sleep. So, at 4 a.m., I was making a pot of coffee. I'd tuned in a Chicago all-news stations whose nighttime signal is very good here, and the first things I hear is of a rescue off the coast of Cuba, by the Coast Guard but with Cuban government assistance, of the people on what is described as a converted cutter called the Sea Raider. Now I don't know how many such boats are so named, but one in particular interests me: I havepictures of it and always suspected it could have been the boat Hall was expecting to get at Dallas. Such a ship was owned by a Dallas rightwinger who was also wealthy. Until the Garrison operation messed it up and let Walter Sheridan reach this guy, I had him turned on (Sheridan got him fixed with Whitey Parton, along with Ferrie's godson, Morris Brownlee).

So, assuming this to be an item the omniscient Washington Post will not carry, I'd appreciate anything you may be able to get on it, and what it was doing, who was on it, etc.

Hal may be interested in knowing that a report he asked me to get in 1966 has I think, been declassified. If so, I'll get it for him. It is the other one on Arnold Louis Kessler. I've gotten a list (incomplete, I've already learned), of what was declassified in the 1970 review. They sent me a small fraction of what I'd asked for that has been declassified and a list. What I got includes what is not on the list. That simple.

I'm reading RFK MUST DIE! and finding it interesting. I am forming some rather definite impressions. If you read and have any feeling when you finish, I'd welcome them. Nothing inconsistent with what I've always believed, but a few possible items bearing on it, I think.

I expect to go over everything declassified beginning p.m. 1/6, after theraphy on my shoulder. So, if anyone wants anything (you people should have received this list automatically-it is in two parts), let me know.

By the way, the guy connected with the Sea Raider closely fits the Gracie Stephens description of the fleeing man in Memphis and is of a character which qualifies him for that job. I got two pictures from him when I had him turned on. He brought them to me early on the day my first interview with him ended about 5-6 a.m. in my N.O. motel room! When he then admitted having more, the DA's poep;le were to keep after him to get them, but this was too much for them, as so much was. Suddenly I wonder if I trusted them with my tapes and if I did, if I ever got them back. He spilled the whole Sheridan thing to me, among other things. It and what happened tie Sheridan more closelt to the feds than to NBC.

I think there is something I meant to include and forgot when I went to the kitchen for more coffee. If I remember it, I'll add a note. There is an outgoing mail tonight, but none coming in today. We got a snow last night, first real one of the season...If you have any impressions of Kaiser, please send them when you can. I'm less than half-way through the book, but will be concentrating on it because I've asked my publisher to try and arrange a NY Review article on the writer's intrusion into the processes of society. If he does, I'll be handling his, Huie's and my work on the Ray and RFK cases.

Best,